Bank of India to get the nine staff candidates promoted earlier as Field Supervisors replaced by the empanelled candidates for this post;

(b) whether the Central Bank of India had pointed out certain difficulties in reverting the staff candidates;

(c) whether the Bank had suggested the appointment of the nine empanelled candidates without displacement of the existing staff candidates against the available vacancies of Field Supervisors; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The whole issue has been got reexamined by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and it has been advised to treat the old panel as lapsed.

Conference on drug trafficking

149. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on drug trafficking was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which participated in the conference; and

(c) what are the main issues discussed at the conference and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing information is attached (*See* below).

(c) The discussion were held on country reports submitted by the participants on the illicit drug trafficking. Illicit opium production and control measures were also discussed. To combat the problem of drug trafficking, the participating countries agreed on mutual assistance and co-operation. Recommendations were made for exchange and systematic flow of information and improvement in the inter-communication network between participating INTERPOL member-countries.

Statement

Apart from the representatives of the International Criminal Police Organisation—INTERPOL General Secretariat, the following countries participated in the conference:—

1. Austria
2. Bangladesh
3. Federal Republic of Germany
4. France
5. India
6. Italy
7. Nepal
8. Netherlands
9. Norway
10. Pakistan
11. Portugal
12. Spain
13. Sri Lanka
14. Switzerland
15. United Kingdom.

2. The representatives from U.S.A., Canada and International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations, Drug Adviser of the Colombo Plan Bureau and Customs Co-operation Council also participated in the meeting as Observers.

Representations from Tamil Nadu Small Scale Soap and Detergent Manufacturers' Association urging for reduction in the price of Palm Fatty Acid

150. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STC has received a memorandum dated the 9th February,